A

Juſt Reproof,

To the Falſe

Reports, bold, & unjuſt Calumnies,

Dropt in two late

PAMPHLETS

The Firſt ENTITULED,

An Account of a Horrid and Barbarous Murder. In a Letter from a Gentleman in Fife, *to his Friend in* Edinburgh.

And the other

An Anſwer of a Letter from a Gentleman in Fife *to a Nobleman, containing a brief Account of the Barbarous and Illegal Treatment, the Poor Woman accuſed of Witchcraft met with, from the Bailies of* Pittinweem *and others.*

Prov. 10. 18. *He that hideth hatred with Lying Lips, and he that uttereth Slander is a Fool.*

Prov. 12. 19. *The Lip of truth ſhall be Eſtabliſht for ever: But a Lying tongue is but for a Moment.*

Prov. 17. 4. *A Wicked doer giveth heed to falſe Lips: and a Lyar giveth Ear to a Naughty tongue.*

EDINBURGH.

Printed in the Year M. DCC. V.

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Juſt Reproof to the falſe Reports, Bold, and unjuſt Calumnies, Dropt in two late Pamphlets, &c.

THE Trifling Pamphlet we are now to take under Correction, appeared ſeveral Weeks ago. The deſign of it was ſo palpably malicious, ſo diſcernible an Air of Partiality, Prejudice and ill nature, every where breath'd in the Paper; that all Perſons of Judgment, Sobriety and Candor, how different ſoever in Principle from the Perſons Traduc'd, Entertain'd it with Contempt. A Paper that carried its own Confutation ſo plainly in its Bolom, was ſcarce thought worthy of an Anſwer. Tho' the Impudence of the Author, in abuſing the World with ſuch ſcandalous Untruths, and his ignorance in managing his Malicious Deſign of blacking the Reputations of Perſons, whom he durſt not fairly attack in any Legal or Allowable way; by an Account of Matters of Fact that had not a Reſemblance of Truth, were judged worthy of ſuch a Reproof, as the Wiſe Man informs us, is *proper for fools*. But the Author of this Pamphlet being either enraged by this Contempt, or growing bold becauſe he met with no Oppoſition, has Impudently obtruded upon the World a ſecond Impreſsion of it, with Additions, of the ſame Temper and Alloy with the firſt Paper; ſince no Body thought fit to Anſwer his Letter. He has Bleſs'd the World with an Anſwer of a Letter Stuff with more of the ſame Dirt that filled up the Lines of his former Paper: Our Author and his Accomplices have no Doubt heard their Friends read them that Leſſon, *Calumniare audacter aliquid adherebit*. Throw Dirt ſome of it will Stick; and they have Conn'd it well, and in thoſe two Papers have given Evidence of their Proficiency. But leſt Silence ſhould be Conſtructed an Evidence of Guilt, We are now in Compliance with the Wiſe Mans advice, that bids us in ſuch Caſes, *Anſwer a Fool according to his Folly, leaſt he be wiſe in his own Conceit*, Reſolved to call thoſe Pamphlets to Account for their Diſingenuous Miſrepreſentations, Scandalous Falſhoods, in matter of Fact their Malicious Inſinuations, more bold Thruſts at the Reputations of Innocent Perſons, and other Miſcarriages of an Alike nature.

But before we take any Particular notice of this Pamphlet, it will be Neceſſary to Premit a ſhort Hint of ſome Occurrences, that gave Riſe to this whole matter.

About the Month of *March* laſt Year, on *Beatrix Layng*, a Woman of very bad Fame, who had formerly been under Proceſs for uſing Charms, and Refuſing to be Reconcil'd to her Neighbours, was Debar'd from the Lord's Table, came to one *Patrick Mortoun* a Black Smith deſireing him to to make ſome Nails: which he refus'd to do, becauſe otherwiſe Imploy'd at that time. Upon which She went off Muttering ſome Threatning Ex-

preſsions; A little after the ſaid *Patrick Mortoun*; with another Perſon in Company Carrying ſome Fiſh by the ſaid *Beatrix Layng's* Door, they ſaw a Veſſel with Water plac'd at the Door, with a Burning Coal in it. Upon which he was preſently Strucken with an Impreſsion that it was a Charm Deſign'd againſt him; and upon this a little after he Sickn'd. In this Sickneſs he Languiſhed for a long time: Phyſicians that ſaw him, could not underſtand his Diſtemper, yet try'd Various Medicines; till at length, his trouble Increas'd and he begun to be Seis'd with ſome Unuſual Fits, which made them give over. He forbore all this while any Accuſation of the Perſon whom he all along Suſpected for his Trouble, at leaſt he made no mention of it to the Miniſter, who frequently Viſited him, while under it. But his trouble ſtill increaſing, he at length began to drop ſome Apprehenſions of the Cauſe of it: Upon which *Beatrix Laing* was call'd, and by the Magiſtrats, in the ſaid *Patrick Morton's* Father's houſe, Examin'd in preſence of a great Multitude of People; and own'd that ſhe had plac'd that Veſſel with Water, and the Coal in it there: But at that time would give no Account of the Reaſon of it. Being diſmiſs'd by the Magiſtrates, ſhe went home; and that ſame Night when ſhe was Challenged by *Katharine Marſhal*, in her own houſe, before *Nicolas Lowſon*, about the Lad's Trouble, ſhe anſwered, *That he might blame his own ill Tongue, for what had befaln him, and that it was an Evil Spirit that was troubling him*: Which was in her Face maintained, by the ſaid Perſons next day, in Preſence of the Magiſtrats. Then the Boy began to complain of her Tormenting him, and fell into grievous Fits of Trouble upon her Entring the Houſe. Upon all which, ſhe being impriſon'd, after ſome time, did acknowledge to Magiſtrats and Miniſter, in Preſence of many Witneſſes, without Threat or Torture (of which we ſhall ſpeak more afterwards). *That ſhe was diſpleaſed with* Patrick Morton *for his refuſing to make ſome Nails; that ſhe deſigned to be avenged upon him for it: And that ſhe uſed that Charm of the Coal in the Water againſt him: And that ſhe renounced her Baptiſm, entred into a Compact with the Devil, ſome twelve years before; Condeſcending upon Time, Place, and her Inducements to engage in his Service: And that ſhe, with* Nicolas Lowſon, *had made a Wax Picture to Torment him, and put Pins in it; which the ſaid* Nicolas, *likewiſe confeſſed afterwards, and ſo Juſtified the Boy's Account of the Riſe of his Trouble.*

After this the Boys trouble daily increas'd, in which there were many Strange things; firſt his Belly for ſome time, then his Breaſt frequently heav'd up to a Prodigious highr, and inſtantly went off again, by a blowing at the Mouth like a Bellows, frequently he cried out that ſuch Perſons as he Nam'd were Pinching him in his Arms, Breaſt, or ſome other places of his Body, his Hands lying all the while above the Cloaths at diſtance from one another, in the view of many of the Spectators; and when they Look'd the places of which he complain'd, they ſaw diſtinctly the Print of Nails: Again

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he was frequently cast into Swooning Fits, became insensible, which was tryed by Exquisite Pinching the more sensible parts of his Body, of which he Complain'd afterwards, when he came out of the Fits, tho' he took no Notice of them, nor felt them in the time, while he was in these Fits; the Strongest who Essayed to list his Head from the Pillow, were not able to move it, tho' both his Feet and Head were perfectly free of the Bed, which was exactly tried: Yea sometimes while the Trunk of his Body and his head were thus Rigid, and could not be rais'd from the Pillow, his Legs were loose, and any might move them as they pleas'd. Sometimes these Fits were not so great as at other times; and then, or when he was falling in, or coming out of them, several Persons lifted him with little Difficulty: But when he was in the Deepth of the Fit, the Strongest that essay'd it could not raise him up. Again when any of the Women whom he accused touched him, and sometimes on their coming into the Room, he fell into grievous Fits of Trouble, and cried out, That such a Person was Tormenting him, condescending on their Names: And this he did very frequently, before Multitudes of People of different Ranks, ready to attest the same. And commonly such Care was taken to prevent his having any Notice, either of the Womens Entry, or which of them was there, that there was no place left for any Rational Suspicion of Trick or Cheat in the Matter. He was carefully hoodwink'd with several Plyes of Cloth: The Women were brought in with the utmost Secrecy, innocent Persons present in the Room laid their hands on him, but yet he never shew'd the least Concern, save when the accused Persons Touched him. Several Times Gentlemen that seem'd Jealous that there was somewhat of an Imposture in the case, were allowed and Invited to make the Nicest Tryal, and found it hold. Several pitiful Cavils have been used about this, and other instances of the Boys trouble, which proceed either from Ignorance of the Circumstances of matter of Fact, or Grois inadvertancy in not observing the several Variations of the Boy's case; which had they been considered, they would have been so far from giving any Countenance to the Conclusion aimed at by these Objectors, that they would strongly have Enforced a Conviction of something Præter-Natural in the case: But we forbear to enter on the Detail of these Exceptions, because they are evidently Trifling, and Savouring rather of prejudice against the General Truth, that there is such a thing as Witchcraft, and the Persons who profess to Believe it, than of Judgement or an Impartial Consideration of this particular case. Beside such as this Author sees meet to mention shall be afterward considered,

Further, In the time of his Trouble, he told, that severals of the Witches Tormenting him, were at their Meetings, condescending upon the time, Place, Persons present, in which the Confessing Witches did exactly concur with him, and Justified his Accounts.

These and many other Particulars of an alike Nature, might have been

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atteſted by the Oaths of many Witneſſes, if the Wiſdom of the Government had ſeen meet during the Lad's Trouble, to put this matter to an exact Tryal; which all concern'd much deſired, whereof they gave ſufficient evidence, by their Applications to all concern'd, to grant Commiſſion to Try the whole matter on the place.

The deſign'd Brevity will not allow to enlarge in giving any further Account of this Boy's Trouble, or of all Occurrences, with reſpect unto the Witches; Wherefore leaving this, we ſhall proceed to take this Pamphlet under Conſideration, and begin with that part of it firſt Publiſhed.

In the firſt Paragraph, after a ſhort hint of *Patrick Morſom's* Trouble, our Author ſubjoins, *That this Man by his odd Poſtures and Fits, which ſeemed to be very Surpriſing at firſt, wrought himſelf into ſuch a Credit with the People of that Place; that unleſs the Earl of* Rothes *our Sheriff had Diſcovered his Villany, and Diſcouraged that Practice, God knows how fatal it might have proved, to many honeſt Families of good Credit and Reſpect*; Sir, *However at firſt many were deceived, yet now all Men of Sence are Aſham'd for giving any Credit to ſuch a Perſon.*

To which its Replyed, 1*ſt*. As to the Boy's Trouble, we refer to the Account of the matters of Fact, juſt now given: and its left to unbyaſs'd Readers to Judge, whether Men of Sence had Reaſon to be Aſham'd of giving any Credit to this Perſon, who is a Simple Boy, and uncapable of managing any Impoſture, and it is not eaſie to underſtand, what might be his Inducement, if he had been Capable of it, ſince it did ſo much to ruine him and his Fathers Family.

2*ly*. Whereas our Author tells us, *That if a timely Diſcovery had not been made of the Impoſture, it might have been of bad Conſequence to many Honeſt Families of Good Credit and Reſpect*. We know no ground for the Authors fears; Its true many Reports have been blown about of Perſons being Accus'd, who may come under this Character: But there was never any Ground for theſe Reports, for neither did the Boy drop any Accuſation to Magiſtrats or Miniſter, nor the Confeſſing Witches ever delate any without the Bounds of the Pariſh of *Pittenweem*, nor any Perſon within the Town of any Note, or indeed any, ſave thoſe who were impriſon'd, and a very few others of the meaner Sort. 3. As to what our Author aſſerts of the Earl of *Rothes* detecting his Villany. We anſwer, that the Earl of *Rothes* is a Perſon, whom, on many Accounts we reſpect: But we muſt have better Ground than this Author's Word, before we can believe, that a Perſon of the Earl of *Rothes* Senſe and Judgment, would conclude, from his not ſeeing any thing Remarkable, during half an hour, or an hours Stay. That there was nothing of Reality, in a Trouble carried on for a long Tract of Time, in a great Variety of Shapes, and which had various, and ſometimes long Intermiſſions, during which there was nothing obſervable to be ſeen. And who

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can believe, that, if the Earl of *Rothes* had discovered any manifest evidence of the Boy's villany, that he would have gone off the place where there was most need for this discovery, to undeceive the People, who, if we may believe this Author, had been wheedled by this Rogue, into a belief of the reality of his trouble, without giving these convincing evidences which this — Pamphleteer would have us believe he found. This is so manifestly unworthy of that Noble Lord, that we cannot entertain so mean thoughts of him upon so weak a ground, as the assertion of one, whose word shall be discovered to be of very little value before we have done with him. And if the Earl of *Rothes*, or any other, had offered any such evidence, the Magistrats or Minister, would have been as forward as any, to have him punished as an Imposture; besides, if any unquestionable evidence of Imposture had appeared, the known zeal and concern of that Noble Lord for the Execution of Justice, the punishment of Villany, and preventing such dangerous consequences, could not but have led him to use his utmost endeavours to have it punished in an Examplary way.

Our Author in the next paragraph, proceeds to give us his History of *Janet Corphat*, the Woman who was murdered.

Before we take him to task, it will be needful, that we give some account of this Woman, not to excuse the Murder, which we detest as much as he; she was a Woman of very bad fame, who of a long time was reputed a Witch, frequently used Charms, and was wont commonly to threaten persons who disobliged her, and such consequences some time followed, as made her the terror of many, both of the Town and Country, which might be verified by particular Instances if it were necessary: she was not at first delated by *Patrick Morton*, tho' afterwards he complain'd of her as one of her Tormentors: But she with some several others in Company with the Devil, whereof *Isabel Adam* was one, in pursuance of a quarrel, which *Beatrix Laing* formerly mention'd, had with one *Alexander M'gregor*, a Fisher in the Town, made an Attempt to murder the said *M'gregor* in Bed; which was prevented by his awaking and wrestling against them. This Attempt was acknowledged by *Isabel Adam*, of whose Confession a more full Account shall be given afterwards, who had been taken up on that Man's Delation, and some other Informations against her, and not on the Lad's. As likeways, the said *Janet* was accused by *Nicolas Lowson*, another Person present at that Attempt. And *Nicolas* accus'd her of being at another Meeting in the Loan of *Pinnenweem*; at both which Meetings they confess'd the Devil was present: All which she her self afterwards freely confess'd.

The manner of this Woman's Confession was very remarkable. After she had obstinatly some while denied, and with a subtility beyond what might be expected, from one of her Education, shifted all questions put to her, she with *Isobel Adam* aforesaid, being brought to the House where the tormented Lad lay, and he discovering her at her entry into the Room, notwithstanding the utmost precaution was used to conceal it from him, and he falling into grievous fits of trouble,

did cry out of her as one of his Tormenters; at which she was so stunn'd, that instantly she fell a trembling. The Magistrats and Minister observing her in such a confusion, asked if she was willing to commune with them, in reference to the matters, whereof she had been accused, she declaring her self willing, went with them to another place, and when desired to be ingenuous, she again fell a trembling and said she would confess all, but was afraid the Devil would tear the Soul out of her Body if she did, and said if you will Pray, and cause all good Folk Pray for me, I will confess, and desired the Minister then to Pray, and, after Prayer, Confessed, *she was Bodily present at both the meetings aforesaid with the Devil and the Witches, and gave a circumstantiat account of the Renounciation of her Baptism, naming time, place, and inducements which led her to it, and the shape the Devil appeared to her in. She likeways told the reason of their attempt to Murder* M'greigor, *was, that he did not hire a House which belonged to* Beatrix Layng.

Again, on a Thursday after she had been hearing Sermon, she desir'd to speak with the Minister, and sent one to acquaint him with this Desire, on which he went to her; and she before several Witnesses, renewed her former Confession, and Condescended on all the Persons, the other Confessing Witches had Accused, as being present at the two foresaid Meetings, adding withal, that there were others present whom she knew not; This Confession she renewed before the Presbytrie, in presence of a great many Country Gentlemen, and many other Spectators, as likewise in face of a numerous Congregation on the Lord's day.

And now let us hear the Pamphleter's account of this Womans case, he tells us, *She was well guarded with a number of men, who by Pinching her*, &c. Here are almost as many Untruths, as Words, which a plain account of matters of Fact, which we offer to verify in all Points, if call'd to it, will make appear.

It is own'd, That when *Beatrix Laing* and *Nicolas Lawson* were first Imprisoned, they were ill us'd by some of the Guard, without the Knowledge of Magistrats or Minister, of which the Woman made Complaint to the Minister, whereof he presently acquainted the Magistrats, who with the Minister went to the Prison, and threatned the Guard, if they offered the least Disturbance to Persons in Custody: And the Minister on the Lord's day thereafter took occasion in Sermon, to discover the Wickedness of that practice, as being against the Light of Nature, Scripture, and the just Laws of the Land; after this, we heard of no more Disturbance they met with. Now it was not till after this precaution used to prevent their Trouble, that *Janet Corphet* was Imprisoned, and from the time of her Imprisonment, till the time that she Confessed, which was some Ten, or Twelve days after; she was not in the Company with the rest, nor with the Guard, save one or two Days, but was alone in a separat Prison, and nothing to disturb her.

Now its Remarkable, that neither of these Persons who were ill us'd, of which *Janet Corphet* was none, did ever make any Acknowledgment to these persons

persons who us'd them ill, nor till some days after they were quite freed of this Trouble. And when they did Confess, it was to Magistrates and Minister, whom they own'd to be careful to preserve them, from such Abuses; nor did Magistrats or Minister ever use any Threatning to extort a Confession, or any other Argument but what the Gospel requires to be made use of, to bring Impenitent Sinners to a Confession of their Sins: From all which its evident, how false our Authors Account is.

The Pamphlet toward the middle of this Paragraph, tells us, *That* Janet Corphet *said to some Noblemen and Gentlemen, who came to see her, that all she had Confessed*, &c. *were lies, and tryed out, God forgive the Minister*, &c. To which its Answered, this Passage fell out a considerable time after their Confession, and also after the Story next mentioned, of which by and by, and before these Noblemen and Gentlemen came to see her, she had been prevailed with to retract her Confession, upon what Inducements, and by whose means, and what were their Motives, we forbear to mention, being unwilling to drop any thing, that may Reflect on the Honour of Persons, to whose Character we owe some regard, if not driven to it by plain necessity; However litle regard they have to the Reputation of Magistrats and Minister.

As to what she said to the Persons first mention'd in the Pamphlet, no Regard is to be had to it, For beside that we want evidence of the Truth of it, since the few Persons that entered the Prison, allowed none of the Place to be present, but thrust forth one of the Magistrates, that was going in: This Woman, as said is, having Retracted her confession before this, was now in Expectation of obtaining her Liberty immediatly, by means of one of these Persons, and when that Person by whom they Expected to be Liberate, did formerly visite her, she made use of this as an Argument with *Isobel Adam*, and *Nicolas Lowson* to Engage them to Retract their Confessions, and deny all; which the said *Isobel Adam*, and *Janet Corphet* did Confess afterwards before Witnesses; and *Isobel Adam* in the Confession she made in presence of the Magistrates, which is attested by their Subscriptions, and is now Lodg'd in the hands of my Lord Advocat acknowledges, that *Janet Corphet* practised on her and *Nicolas*, and induced her to Retract: And here it is not amiss to observe, that the said *Isobel Adam* while she stay'd in *Pittenweem*, never Retracted or varyed in her Confession, but this once upon the Inducement abovementioned, and she adher'd to her Confession before my Lord Advocat, one of the Lords of Justiciary, and several other Witnesses; It is true, she has since several times denyed all, as to which my Lord Advocat in a Letter to the Magistrates of *Pittenweem* say's, *he was very well Satisfy'd, she is perverted:*

As to what *Janet Corphet spake of the Ministers beating her with his Staff.* It is the most abominable untruth, and there was never the least shaddow of Ground for it: The Minister never spoke with her alone, when he was dealing with her to Confess; nor dare any Person say, that ever they saw the Minister

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treat her Rudely in the least, besides her former Confession was so free, and came so much of her self, as is evident from the Account above given, that there was no Tentation to it.

As to what she said of her desire to have her Denyal Conceal'd, the former Account given of the Conduct of Magistrates and Minister, Demonstrates she had no Ground for any such fear, as she is pretended to have been under.

Next in the close of this Paragraph, we are Entertain'd with a Story of what she said to the Laird of *Glenagies* and Mr. *Bruce* of *Kinross*. The best way to Satisfie the Reader about this, is to give a plain Account of Matter of Fact, these Gentlemen came in Company with the Earl of *Rothes*, a considerable time before the last mentioned Story fell out: When the Earl came to the Prison where *Isobel Adam*, *Janet Corphet*, and *Nicolas Lowson* were, a Neighbouring Minister who was occasionally there, and had never spoke with *Isabel Adam* before, said to her before these persons, and a great many other Witnesses; *Isabel, My Lord* Rothes *is come here and desires to be Satisfi'd, as to the Truth of these Reports that are going of you, we shall not propose any Questions to you, but it will be most Satisfying to hear you give an Account of the whole matter your Self.* Upon which she presenty began, and gave an Exact and Coherent Account how she was d awn to the Sin of Witch-craft, and of all she had so often before Confessed, with much seeming Concernedness. When she had done, the Minister said, *Isabel, this is a very Strange Story, has any Person by Torture or Threatnings, or any other violence Tempted you to accuse your self of such horrid Crimes?* To which she Answered, *None has done it, bus it was a Truth she told*; whereupon *Glenagies* Standing at the end of the Table, said, *Woman, are you thinking long to be Burnt?* To which she with great concern and readiness Replyed instantly, *If it be GOD's will and Mans will. I desire it.* *Janet Corphet* did likewise own her Guilt to the Persons that Conversed with her, as is Confessed in the Pamphlet, for its Granted by our Author, that the Gentleman said to her, *she had confessed as much as would infallibly Burn her*; to what purpose her Reply to this is mention'd, is not easy to understand, for nothing more can be inferr'd from her saying *God forbid*, when they spoke of Burning to her, than that she was unwilling to be Burnt; And is this Strange! As to what is Subjoin'd,

That, *to one of the two she said, that, from which he might rationally conclude, she had assurance from the Minister, her Life should not be taken.* Here we have a taste of Authors Candour, and how well he deserves the Character he assumes to himself of a Gentleman, what Man might he not abuse at this Rate? And if Men will follow such Courses, whose Reputation is safe? The Expression from which this Conclusion is alledged deduceable is not mention'd, and so there is no access for any to canvass the Words, and Judge what Construction they will bear, or what Conclusion may rationally be deduced from them. This is a Convenient way of management for Persons that have a bad Cause, and whose pretended Consequences to the prejudice of others, cannot bear an Impartial Tryal.

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As to the matter it self, it's a downright untruth, for as the Minister never threatned Death, so he never promised Life to any of them, he knew very well the power of Life and Death was not in his hand: After all, it's a Question whether the Gentleman he means, has really said so, we have only our Author's word for it, and any who reads this Paper, will be far from blaming us, if we refuse to take every thing he says for Truth. Many other stories have been told under these Gentlemens Names about what then occurr'd, which seem plainly intended to wrong the Reputation of others, which we forbear to mention, because we had them only upon vulgar report; And we can scarcely believe that Gentlemen of any Candour or Sense, could have been guilty of abusing the World with so foul Misrepresentations. A candid and impartial Representation of what was really matter of Fact, and could easily be evicted to be so, would be sufficient to make the first report asham'd of their disingenuity, and such as intertain'd them of their foolish Credulity: But the stories are really so ridiculous, that the Persons concerned, think them rather worthy of contempt than a Reply; especially since we have no other ground to fix them upon any Author, but common Fame. On which we Judge it unchristian to lay the stress, as this Pamphlet every where doeth, or to mention what may in the least prejudge the Reputation of others. But as to our Authors story, the short of the matter is, the Minister must be blackned, or his design is lost.

The Third Paragraph of this Pamphlet tells us a story of what *Janet Corphet* said to Mr. *Robert Cook* Advocat, and Mr. *Ker* of *Kippilaw* a Writer to the Signet, to whom we believe she did in part deny her Guilt, but this was after she had been influenced by the means abovementioned to retract her Confession; whether she used these words mentioned by our Author, we cannot tell, nor is it material. What might be the meaning of them, our Author says he knows not, and we know not to what purpose he has mentioned them, unless it be to perswade the World, that she was so simple that no regard is to be had to any Confession she made. As to which, we Answer, when she desired to be admitted publickly to renew her Baptismal Vows; The Presbytry of St. *Andrews*, after they had Examin'd her a considerable time in the presence of a multitude of Witnesses, found her a Person of no contemptible knowledge, and none who know the Woman, and how sagacious she was beyond many of her rank, would believe that her saying, *That she did never renounce her Baptism, but to the Minister*, was any other thing but a mistake in Expression occasion'd by the confusion she was in, upon her being closly urged as to her Guilt by them: For she acknowledged to them that she was at a meeting in the *Loan* with the rest of the Witches. Whereas it's said the Minister threatned her. It's Replyed, that the Minister, at this time, or any other time, made use of no other threatnings, but such as every Minister of the Gospel is obliged to use when dealing with such Persons; and he dares the Author to give any evidence to the contrar.

In the close of this Paragraph, our Author tells us, *she was put in a low Prison,*

out of which it was obvious that any Body could make an escape, and accordingly she made her escape that night. Here are but two assertions, and both of them False, for the Prison was the second story, and her escape was by breaking an old Iron Grate in the Window, nor was it that night after, that she broke the Prison, for it was on Friday these Gentlemen discours'd her, and on the Lord's Day at Night she broke Prison.

The Fourth Paragraph consists of two Assertions, and neither of them true, there was no search made for her, since the Magistrats thought it not probable she would Stay in the Town, only her Daughter Living in the place, was Exi-min'd about her accession to her Escape; who utterly denyed, she knew any thing of it, neither did they ever promise any Reward to such as should bring her back.

Our Author in his next Paragraph proceeds to his Account of the Murder. The Pamphlet has disjointed matters a little, and we must bring them together again, that we may give a distinct Reply. After he has told us, *That Mr. Gordon Minister of* Lewchars *sent* Janet Corphet *to* Pittenweem and told the hail Story of the Murder. He says in his last Page, *that its said Mr.* Couper *in a Letter to Mr.* Gordon *gave rise to it &c.* That the Reader may have a clear view of this, we must give a short Account of the matter of Fact, which we shall make good against this Author, or any that shall call it in Question. *Mr. Cowper* denyes that ever he gave any Encouragement, by Word or Write, direct or indirect to *Mr. Gordon*, to send her to *Pittenweem*; nor did *Mr. Couper* Write his first Letter to *Mr. Gordon*, till after the Murder, nor did Mr. *Gordon* ever mention to Mr. *Couper* that he had a design to send her back.

As for the Letter *Mr. Couper* wrote to *Mr. Gordon* after the Murder, it has never yet come into *Mr. Coupers* hands, but is Lodged in the hands of the Moderator of the Presbytrie of St. *Andrews*, It's manifest this which was the first Letter *Mr. Couper* wrote for many years to *Mr. Gordon*, could give no Rise to the sending of the Woman, or the Murder, since it was after both. As for what *Mr. Gordon* says in his Postscript *that he shall Conceal Mr. Coupers Letter*; *Mr. Gordon* has sent *Mr. Couper* a second Letter, *Which any that pleases may see, wherein he declares, the reason of that Postscript was, not any thing he had found in the Letter; but that when Mr.* Cowper *sent for the Letter to him, he was going to his Horse for* Edinburgh, *and had not got time to peruse it.*

This Narrative shews how groundless our Author's uncandid Insinuations of the Rise of this Business are: Let us now see how he acquits himself in the Account of the Matter it self; there our Author has strangely jumbl'd Matters together. And therefore leaving his Confused Account, stuft with Falshoods, we shall give a short and true Account of it.

Janet Corphet *came to Town under Cloud of Night with two Men, and went straight to an Inn where her Daughter was Serving: After some Stay there, the two Men brought her to the Minister's House, who was Visiting a sick Child of one* James Cook, *a present Bailie, where his Servant came to him with Mr.* Gordon's *Letter; and as soon*

soon as he had perused it, he bid his Servant go tell them, he would have nothing to do with her; but since they had brought her to the Town, let them take her to the Magistrats. Which Answer, two Men then present have attested under their hands. On this, the Men brought her to Bailie Cook's *House, where the Minister was; and the Men meeting him coming down stairs, pressed him to take her off their hands, which he refused to do; but call'd the two next Magistrats, and advised them instantly to set her off safe out of the Town: On which the two Bailies sent for their Officer immediatly; and the Minister went off straight to his own House, and saw no Appearance of a Rabble, nor did hear of it, till the Rabble had gone a considerable length; and after a little, he heard that the Woman was got safe out of their hands, and the Rabble dissipat, and he knew nothing of her death till the next Morning.*

When the Officer came to the Magistrates, they, on Deliberation among themselves, Resolv'd to imprison her till the next Morning; and accordingly ordered their Officer to do it: And as the Officer was Executing the Magistrats Orders, the Rabble gath'red upon them, attack'd the Officer, and took the Woman from him, with which, it's said, he did not acquaint the Magistrats, that they might have taken other Measures for the Woman's Safety. But we forbear to say any more of the Magistrats Conduct, because that matter is at present under the Cognition of the Lords of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

This Rable did not flow from the Inclinations of the People of the Place, which is evident *from the Peaceable and Safe Residence, two confessing Witches had, two Months time in the Place, since they were set at Liberty*, but from an unhappy occasional concourse of a great many Strangers, some *Englishmen*, some from *Orkney*, and other parts who were forward in it, and have since taken guilt on them by their Flight.

It's needless to wast Paper, with a particular Account of the Actions of the Rable, and the Treatment they gave her, which was indeed Barbarous. A naked Representation of what was Truth in it, was sufficient to make it odious; so that our Author might well have spared a great many Falshoods, with which he has stuft his Account, some of which we shall briefly notice.

It's false, that *Janet Corphet* when she passingly saw Mr. *Cowper*, as said is, *moved any such Question, as that mention'd in this Pamphlet, nor did he give any such Answer*, as can be instructed by Witnesses beyond all Exception; it's false, *That she sought Lodging in* Nicolas Lowlons, *or any where else. or that any put her there, till after the Rable had left her on the Sands: It's a most Abominable and Injurious Calumny, that never had any shadow of ground, that ever the Rable came near to Mr.* Cowper, *spoke to him, or he to them, or that he saw any Appearance of a Rable, when he was going home*; And the place where the Rable Murdered the Woman, lay at a great distance from Mr. *Cowper's* House, the neareſt place where they first fell on her, being on the Sands, in the Harbour, was not within the Loudest cry of it, where he abode all the time, and Mr. *Cowper* heard, *she was safe out of their Hands*, and knew nothing of her Death till eight a Clock

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the next Morning, as has been ſaid, whence it's evident, what our Author ſays, *of the Rables taking Encouragement from Mr.* Cowper's *Words to fall on her*, is Groundleſs, untrue, and Malicious.

As to what the Pamphlet mentions of thoſe of *Mr. Coupers* Family going along with the Rabble; Mr. *Couper* urged to have his Servants Examined *among the firſt, and they have declared before the Magiſtrates, that they Stole out in a Clandeſtine way*, that their Maſter *might not know of it, and he indeed knew nothing of it*, and they returned very quickly and made no ſtay. Nor do any of the Witneſſes Examined inſinuat any Accuſation *of their having the leaſt acceſſion to any Injury ſhe met with* nor were they any o her way concerned, *than by Looking on a ſhort while with ſome Hundred's of Spectators*, and Mr. *Bruce* the late Epiſcopal Incumbent his Daughter *Mary Bruce*, and his Servant Maid when Examined by the Magiſtrates have declared *that they likewiſe were Onlookers at the Harbour where the Rable began, and at* Nicolas Lowſons *Door; where its ſaid ſome few killed her*, but they did never accuſe Mr. *Cowper's* Women *as Acceſſory*. But it was not for our Authors purpoſe, to take notice of any concernment of thoſe of Mr. *Bruce's* Family in the Rable, though we dare boldly ſay, *there was more Reaſon for mentioning them, than any of* Mr. Cowpers *Servants*; nor is this ſtrange, ſince Mr. *Bruce* (if we believe vulgar Report) our Authors beſt Informer, hath obliged the World with this Pamphlet; It's true one of Mr. *Cowper's* two Servants foreſaid, being ſent out late to the Poſt Weſt-ward, out of her Curioſity went to *Nicolas Lawſons* door, *to ſee what was come of the Woman*, and ſhe has declar'd before the Magiſtrats, what ſhe ſaw, and knew of that matter, and return'd a Conſiderable time before it's ſaid the Woman was Murdered.

The whole Story about the Womans Daughters is falſe, there are as many Untruths in it as Words, for it's well known there was but one of her Daughters in Town, and ſhe came not near the Rable, which ſhe is ready to declare, Which our Author has retracted in the ſecond Edition of the Pamphlet.

As to what concerns *the Horſe and Sledge*, it's altogether falſe, there was no Horſe or Sledge near her that night, next Morning a Horſe and Sledge paſſed that way, to carry ſome Linnings to the Water, but ſhe was dead a long time before, and there was no Rable *to call the Man, and make him drive over the Corps*.

Again what our Author ſubjoins of the Rables Treatment of the Woman, viz. *That they firſt found her at* Nicolas Lowſons *Houſe, and that ſhe was Killed outright, when they drag'd her there again*, is as ill grounded, as the reſt of our Authors Aſſertions: For they found her not at *Nicolas Lowſons* Houſe, and ſome of the Perſons Examined have Declared, that after ſhe was brought to that Door, ſhe aroſe and put on Head Cloaths, and called to *Nicolas Lowſon* to let her in, which if ſhe had done, ſhe, in all appearance, had met with no more Diſturbance; but after this, we hear, *that ſome few of the Rable ſtole up ſecretly and Murdered her*.

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As to what our Author tells us in a different Character, of the Language of the Rable, we can give no Account of it; nor are we to Justify their words, more than their Actions, but we have shewed sufficiently that our Authors Informations, are not much to be Depended on.

As to the next Paragraph that mentions Mr. *Couper's* Letter as giving rise to it, we have Answer'd the Substance of it before, and our Author himself seems not to be over Confident of the Truth of it, for he introduces it with a Remarkable Preface, *Its said*; But if this string fail him, he has another to his Bow, whereby he is confident to drive the Arrow home to Mr *Coupar*, for he tells us in the following Paragraph: *Its certain that Mr* Couper *took no notice of the Murder the next Lords day, which at least makes him guilty of Sinful silence,* Here is a home thrust indeed, but the happiness on't is our Author *say's*, and his *certainties* are much of a kind. Will it not absolve Mr. *Couper* with our Author, if he did in Prayer Regrate and Aggravat the Sin? If this will do, Mr. *Couper* is free to Appeal to his Hearers for the Truth of it; and besides the two next Lords day thereafter, did directly discover the Wickedness of Rables, which is yet Recent in the Memories of his Hearers. Where is then that Sinful silence our Author will have him certainly Guilty of?

Our Author in his last Paragraph save one, expresses his Confidence that *the Government will Examine the matter to the Bottom, and lay no stress on what the Magistrates of* Pittenweem, *or Minister, will say to Smooth over the matter.* We are not against the Governments Examining the matter to the bottom, and we are much perswaded, and on better Grounds, that the Wisdom and Justice of the Government, will lay no Stress on the Malicious Informations of one, who, to incense the Government against them, has abusrd the World with an Account Composed of a great many Palpable untruths, bold and Groundless Aspersions, and Spiteful Insinuations. The Minister is sufficiently vindicat by what is above said, and we hope the Magistrates will be able to give such an Account of themselves as may Satisfy the Government.

This Pamphlet is Concluded with a Prayer in which the Magistrates and Minister could cordially Join, if no more were meant by it, than the words abstracted from the foregoing Relation do natively import: But when its considered as it Stands Related to the foregoing Narrative, any may see that it's design'd to put the Cop-stone on all the black Aspersions he has thrown on the Magistrates, and Minister; Before, he has said what his own prejudice, and that of his Informers Suggested against their *Practice*, here, he drives the matter further by an uncharitable Insinuation, that they may own *Principles*, that have a Tendency to such Practices as he has falsly Charged them with; and to make this Suggestion the more Solemn, he has addressed it to the GOD of Truth, who hates such untruths as this Paper is filled with, and has Discharged Persons of that Temper, which breaths in this uncharitable Prayer, to approach his Altar. It's not difficult to Conjecture, at whose Principles this is Levelled, and the Per-

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ſons concern'd, who we take to be all, who own the preſent Government of Church or State, eſpouſe no principles that have the leaſt Tendency to Favour Rables, or any ſuch diſorder; nor are they afraid to compare Principles or Practices in this Regard with the Author or the Party he ſeems to Favour; If we thought our Authors Example worth following, we might have given Repreſentations of Rables, not a few no leſs odious, but more true; and that in a time of a fixed Regular Government; In which perhaps our Author and ſome of his Friends may think themſelves concern'd: But we Scorn to Trace his Steps in ſo dirty a way: Let thoſe who need, uſe ſuch mean Shifts, and draw what inconſequential Concluſions they pleaſe, from Occurrences that have happened among all Parties, and in the beſt Regular Governments.

It's needleſs for this Pamphleter to excuſe himſelf with the pretence of miſinformation; One who pretends to give the World *a Juſt Account of Matters*, wherein the Reputation and Safety of others are concern'd, ſhould have taken more care about his Information. It's unworthy of the Civility of a Gentleman, the Candour of a Man of Common Honeſty, or the Charity of a Chriſtian, *to take up ill grounded Reports of our Neighbours*, much more is it ſo, to ſpread them in Print; telling the World ſome of them are certain, and giving no better grounds for others of them, *than that it's ſaid*. How would it pleaſe our Author, if we ſhould now Print a great many odious ſtories about him, upon the Authority of a bare *hear ſay?* Would he not think himſelf very ill uſed to have ſuch Calumnies thrown on his Name, by no body knows who, on the doubtfull *ſay* of Nameleſs Authors? I believe he would think he had a right to demand of the Government ſomething more, than that meerly they ſhould have no regard to ſuch Reports; *Or lay little ſtreſs on what the Publiſhers of them would ſay to ſmoother over the matter.* Such as have any ſenſe of Honour, regard their Reputation, as much as their Life, and to murder Mens Fames at this Rate, more eſpecially that of Magiſtrats and Miniſters, is not more juſtifiable than to Rable them, and have not we as good reaſon to pray to be delivered, from Principles that have a tendency to ſuch practices, as he had.

Having diſpatched this firſt Pamphlet, we ſhall likeways briefly call to an Account the other, which is prefixed to the ſecond Impreſſion of this Letter, and is Entituled, *An Anſwer of a Letter from a Gentleman in Fife to a Nobleman.*

This Second Letter vigorouſly purſues the ſame malicious deſign with the former, and has been written, either by the ſame Author, or one of the like Unchriſtian Spirit. He begins his Letter with a Complement, to the Nobleman he writes to, in which we are not concerned: But ſince this Author has been ſo kind, as to oblige us with his Judicious Obſervations on the Magiſtrats and Miniſters Conduct; in requitance, we ſhall make this one, on his Complement: If this Nobleman did him Honour in deſiring an Account of this Murder from him, he has made a ſorry return, in abuſing the World and him, with ſuch a Scandalous, and diſingenuous Account of matters of Fact. He refers this Noble Friend

to

to the Pamphlet we have already Examined, Commending its Author for his Ingenuity and Information. How much ground there is for this Commendation, we have ſhewed above. But it is no ill Jeſt, to hear this Gentleman tell the World, *That the Writer of the foregoing Pamphlet, was well Informed*, and yet in the next line to acquaint us, *that he had his Information from the General Talk.* What he adds of the *General belief* of what is contain'd in that Pamphlet, it is an abominable Untruth. All unbyaſs'd Perſons who know any thing of the matter, are ſufficiently ſatisfied of the Faſhood of the Reports blown about by that Scandalous Libel.

In his Second Paragraph, he propoſes his deſign, which is to *give a Narrative of the Magiſtrats and Miniſters unwarrantable Impriſoning, and barbarous treating of the poor Women.* This it ſeems he looks on as wanting to compleat his deſign of the former Pamphlet: We ſhall follow, where he leads the way, and I am jealous before we have done with him, we ſhall make it evident, that he is guilty of more barbarity towards the Magiſtrats and Miniſter, than they to the Women.

He tells this Nobleman, *he needs not trouble him with a Character of* Patrick Mortoun, *who is ſufficiently known for a Cheat.* One, by reading this would think *Patrick Mortoun* had been Try'd, and Convicted of Roguery and Impoſture, in this matter. This is a heavy Charge againſt the poor Boy, and if our Author is not able to give very good proof for what he ſays, the Impartial Reader muſt look on this as a malicious Calumny; yea, were it true, we would deſire our Author to ſatisfy us by his next, how he will reconcile his practice in this, with the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion. Does Chriſtianity allow Men to load their Neighbours with the blackeſt Crimes, and that *publickly in Print* with ſuch *confidence* and *aſſurance*, till they be found guilty by the Judge Competent?

If this clear ſighted Author had been ſo kind, as to lend the Magiſtrats and Miniſter of *Pittenweem*, his Spectacles, they had acted a more Chriſtian Part, and had brought this Rogue to a Trial found him ſuch, and taken care to have him puniſhed in an Examplary way. And they do promiſe this Author, or any other who will undertake it, they ſhall improve their Diſcoveries to the utmoſt againſt him.

But after all, we ſee no ground to conclude him an Impoſture, we are not concerned to Juſtifie every thing he ſaid, or did, under his Trouble, Perſons of greater Sente and Judgement, when under the like trouble have been guilty of many Extravagancies both in word and deed. But as to the Principal things in the Boy's caſe, we could never, nor yet can ſee any Reaſon to conclude them Trick and Cheat.

Had he been a Rogue, we cannot ſee what could have induced him to attempt, to impoſe on the World, ſo much to his own Diſadvantage, and that of his Fathers Family.

Nor do we ſee how he was Capable to carry on ſuch an Impoſture, for ſo

long

long a tract of time, under the eyes of so many Curious Observers from all quarters, without being Convincingly Discovered.

Beside, Her Majesty's Advocat by order of the Privy Council, called him over in *September* last, and examined him, before one of the Lords of the Justiciary Court, and several other Witnesses.

And of late, again, by a new Order he was called over to *Edinburgh*, and Examined by a Committee of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, where the Right Honourable the Earl of *Rothes*, Lord Privy Seal presided, and after a strict Examination of him two several Diets; he was Dismissed, without being convict of Imposture. Now is it credible if there had been such Evidence of Imposture, as our Author pretends, that these Discerning Persons, could have overlooked it, *or suffer the Cheat to pass without Exemplary Punishment*?

Moreover, we leave it to any Impartial person, that peruses the short hint of the Boy's Trouble we have given, if it be probable that all this was Trick and Cheat; The Account of the rise of this Trouble, was Justified by *Beatrix Laing* her self, and that in part before she was Imprisoned, but more fully afterwards: Again how came he to know where and when the Witches had their Meetings, and who were present? and how came the Witches in their Confessions to Stumble on the same Account, and so Justify their Accuser? Or were they in a Consert together, the Witches acting a part to carry on their own Ruin.

Besides, it were easie to Demonstrat, that he could not deceive the Spectators, in the surprising particulars above mentioned, some of which could not possibly be done by Trick; but it belongs to our Author to Account for all these things others did, and do think still were Extraordinary in his Case; if our Author will convincingly prove that all these things were Cheat, we shall yeild to Light: But if he obtrude his Says on us, we crave to be Excused. If this Author will oblige the World with a Rational Solution of these *Phænomena*, we shall be glad to see it; but the Truth on't is, they who are wont to talk most confidently, of accounting for such Extraordinary Appearances from Natural Causes, are such as understand very litle about Nature.

But to proceed with our Author, he tells us next, *That it was one* Patrick Morrouns *Accusation allenerly that the Magistrats and Minister did Imprison the Women.* This so far from having a shadow of Truth, that none were Imprison'd on his simple Delation, and some were Imprisoned without any Delation from him. As to what he says of *Drunken Fellows Torturing the Women*, we have Answered it before, and shall not Trouble the Reader with a Repetition. After this Story of their being Tormented, he concludes this *Paragraph* thus, *This Cruel Usage made some of them be so wise, as to Acknowledge every Question that was asked them.* Leaving our Author to please himself with the Salt of his Malicious Scoff; To matter we Answer, It is altogether false, their Confessions were Extorted by Torment as was said already. 2*dly*. It is false

that

that *they acknowledged every question*, as he says, for some they Refused, other things they Confessed freely, as persons Ingenious are wont to do; *Isabel Adam* would never own *that she was with the rest at their meeting in the Lone*, tho' she confest *that she was at M'greigours House*; [redacted] *Wallace* owned *that she was at that meeting in the Lone*, but Refused *that she was at M'greigours*; as likewise none of the confessing Witches did ever delate *Isabel Adam* to be at the meeting in the Lone.

Next he tells us *some of the more foolish, continued as the Minister said*, hardned in the Devils Service *such as, White Jack, Wallace, Patrick and others*; *All which save the the first were ordered for Stocks, where they lay several Weeks.* To which it's Answer'd. 1*st*. Whereas our Author insinuates that all these Persons did still deny, it is false, for [redacted] *Wallace* did freely confess *her Compact with the Deuil, and Renouncing her Baptism to the Devil*, before several Gentlemen we can Name, and owned *her being at the meeting in the Lone with the Witches, and that* Nicolas Lowson *did take her thither*; but all that knew any thing of the Story knew why she is shuffled in among these that never confessed, of which if occasion Require we shall give a more particular Account afterward. 2*y*. It's false also that ever [redacted] *Wallace* was put in the Stocks or was any way disturbed. 3*ly*. The Reason why some of them were put in the Stocks was *their offering violence to Isabel Adam* for her delating of them, particularly *Thomas Brown* and *Beatrix Laing* after she had Confessed. Nor was any of them above a Day or two in the Stocks. Could any in so few words have Compacted more Lies?

In the following Paragraph, the Minister is directly accused of *Incouraging* Patrick Morton *in carrying on the Cheat by Reading to him the case of Bargarrans Daughter.* In Answer to which, we shall give a short but Candid Account of matter of Fact; *In the Month of* May *last, the Minister with a Preacher, and a great many other People attending all Night in the Room where* Patrick Morton *lay, and he lying mean while, in a Swooning fitt, which was then tryed by Exquisite Pinching, the Minister and Probationer falling into some discourse about* Bargarrans *Daughter took out the Book, and for their own Satisfaction Read only two Sentences and Stopt. Several weeks after, when the Minister was again attending in the Night time, the Lad being insensible, the Minister for his own diversion, Read the Preface and some part of the Process against the Witches; but had no Reason to think he heard any thing, but on the contrary: And it is to be observed, when the Committee of the Privy Council, did accurately Examine the Boy, in Reference to this Story, he still declared he never heard any thing of Bargarrans Daughter's case Read.* By this Account it appears how unjust this Charge is against the Minister; the Minister, whatever this this Author Suggests to the Contrar; is as far as he can be, from any inclination to Countenance and Incourage such Impostures, nor is there the least shaddow of Ground, to think this had any influence on the Boys trouble, or did Incourage him to Imitation; for beside what has been above hinted, before this was Read in the House, all that was most Extraordinary in his case had fall'n out, Nor was there any considerable Likness betwixt his case & hers.

After this he tells us, *The Boy accuſed for his Tormentors the moſt conſiderable Perſons Wives in the Town.* The Falſhood of this has been above evinced, and we challenge this Author to Name any one Perſon of Note in the Place, or elſe where, *whom the Boy accuſed of Tormenting him:* And the Magiſtrats and Miniſter, knew none he accuſed whom they durſt not have Impriſoned, if they had ſeen cauſe: Our Author's Inference, *that it was only the weakeſt that went to the walls*, is Malicious and Falſe; the moſt conſiderable accuſed by him, though not meerly on his Delation, were apprehended: And we ſhall only add this one Remark, *That if* Patrick Mortoun *had not been weak, our Author durſt not have treated him at ſuch a rate:* The ſtory about my Lord *Rothes*, has been ſufficiently Anſwer'd already. That this gave any turn to the Lad's trouble is altogether Falſe, *My Lord* Rothes *came to ſee the Lad on the ſixteenth day of* June, *and the Lad did not begin to recover till the beginning of* Auguſt, *nor was he able to go out till the beginning of* September.

As to *the Baillies emptying the Priſons of them*, the occaſion of it was thus; *The Women after they had been practiſed on, began to retract their Confeſſions*, to tell any more of this ſtory will no be for the Credit of our Author's Friends.

What he ſays of their obliging *them to pay Eight Pounds* Scots *to the Town Officer*, is many ways Falſe; It's falſe they were ordered by the Magiſtrats to pay ſuch a Sum, it's falſe that they pay'd all alike, it is alſo untruth, that any of them gave *what they had provided for their winding ſheets. Nicolas Lawſon* one of the confeſſing Witches, her Husband voluntarly gave a *ſmall piece of unbleached Linning to the Officer for his Fees*, and this all the ground for the ſtory of their winding ſheets.

And the Miniſter was ſo far from being concerned in this, that he challenged the Officer, for taking this piece of Cloath. Now we are come to our Author's remarkable Obſervations, the firſt Obſervation is, *The Baillies and Miniſter, ſent and brought ſeverals of theſe Women from Places without their Juriſdiction; one from* Anſtruther, *and another from the Country at ſix miles diſtance.*

In Anſwer to this Obſervation, we ſhall give a ſhort and Faithful Account of matter of Fact, for which we ſhall be Anſwerable. The Woman brought from *Anſtruther* was one Mrs. *White* an Inhabitant of *Pittenweem*, who through fear of being Apprehended, fled thither to her Daughters Houſe; This Woman whoſe cauſe is now ſo warmly eſpouſed by ſome, with no advantage to their Reputation, and who is now Inſiſting againſt the Magiſtrats, in a Proceſs for wrongous Impriſonment, has been for many Years, a Perſon of very bad Fame, ſome Eighteen Years ago, ſhe purſued a Woman before the Seſſion, in Mr. *Bruce* the late Epiſcopal Incumbents time, *for calling her a Witch*, and Succumbing in the Probation, Mr. *Bruce* urged her to be Reconciled with the Woman, ſhe obſtinatly refuſed, uſing moſt Unchriſtian and Revengful Expreſſions, which are to be ſeen in the Seſſion Regiſter: Since the Revolution ſhe deſired Admiſſion to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which was denied, becauſe ſhe ſtill refuſed to be Reconciled to

that

that Woman; her Scandalous carriage in refuſing to Co-habit with her Husband to this day, who is a ſober honeſt Man, is generally known. This Woman being Accuſed by the Boy as one of his Tormentors, and Delated by two confeſſing Witches, and other preſumptions of her Guilt, the Magiſtrats, one morning ſent their Officer to the Magiſtrats of *Anſtruther*, deſiring them on theſe grounds to ſend Mrs. *White* to them, and the grounds of her Impriſonment were ſent in write to her, in her Daughter Mrs. *Lindſays* Houſe, and ſhe being brought to *Pittenweem*, the two Women which Delated her, were confronted with her, in preſence of the Magiſtrats, a great many Gentlemen and Miniſters, where they did accuſe her to her Face, and charged her particularly with being at a meeting in the *Loan* with the Devil and the Witches, and gave ſome binding tokens to convince her: By all which it appears, how little ground there is to accuſe the Magiſtrats for Invading their Neighbours Jurisdiction, or load the Miniſter with any concernment in the matter.

As to the other inſtance, of one brought to *Pittinweem, at ſix miles Diſtance*, this was the young Woman *Iſobel Adam:* about the midole of *May*, one *Alexander M'griger* delated her, for an attempt to *Murder him in his Houſe in the night time*, with ſeveral others whom he knew not; and there being ſome Surmiſes of other Preſumptions of Witchcraft, againſt her; The Miniſter hearing ſhe was occaſionally in the Town, called for her, and adviſed her before her Father, *If Innocent, to take proper Meaſures for her own Vindication*, which ſhe undertook to do, *and promiſed to return for that end on Advertiſement*, which her Father engaged to give. The noiſe about her ſtill Increaſing, her Father was deſired according to promiſe, *to call her to the place*; which he declined, growing Jealous of her Guilt, on which the Miniſter Advertis'd her, but in caſe ſhe Refuſed, *a Letter was ſent to be delivered to the Gentleman in whoſe Ground ſhe liv'd, deſiring him to ſend her.* So ſoon as the Advertiſement was given, *ſhe came Voluntarly, to her Father's Houſe in* Pittinweem; and ſo there was no occaſion for Force.

When ſhe came, *ſhe Confeſſed her Converſe with the Devil at* Thomas Adamſon's *Houſe, on the firſt Day of* January 1704, ſhe was confronted with *M'gregour*, and he accuſed her of the abovementioned attempt on him, which ſhe then Refuſed, on which ſhe was Impriſon'd, and the two following days, ſhe did with Tears and more than ordinary Concern, make a free and large Confeſſion.

She told, *Beatrix Laing foreſaid, a Confeſſing Witch, had been dealing with her, to Engage in her ſervice, which ſhe refuſed; and that ſometime thereafter, the* Beatrix *came for her, and deſir'd her to go along to her Houſe, when ſhe came there, they ſat down at the fire, and ſhe ſaw a Man in Black Cloaths, with a Hat on his head, ſiting at the Table; and* Beatrix *ſaid to her, ſince you will not engage with me, here is a Gentleman that will Fee you; whereupon he told her, he knew ſhe was Diſcontented with her Lot, and if ſhe would ſerve him, he promiſed ſhe ſhould want for nothing, to which ſhe yeilded to ſerve him, and he came forward and Kiſſ'd her,* and ſhe ſaid, *he was fearſome like, and his Eyes Sparkled like Candle, on which ſhe knew he was the Devil.*

Again

Again she told, *That being Imploy'd to Spin in* Thomas Adamson's *House in* Pittinweem, *while she was lying awake in her Bed, in the Night time, The Devil appearing to her, where she did expresly renounce her Baptism to the Devil, by puting her Hand on her Head, and the other to her Feet, the other Maid lying in the Bed with her, being at the time Asleep*, as the Maid declar'd before the Session. *About a fortnight after this,* Beatrix Laing *came to Visite her, and asked her, if she had met with the Gentleman? She Answered, she had, and also enguged with him, on which* Beatrix *said, I have then got my Work wrought, and went away.* And she Confessed, *she came to that Meeting at* M'greigours *with the Devil, and several Witches, viz.* Beatrix Laing, Nicolas Lowson, Janet Corphet, Thomas Brown, *and several others she knew not, designing to Murder* M'greigour; *But since the Man wakned and pray'd to God for himself, they could not do it.* She Confessed also, *Converse with the Devil at other times.* All which is in her two Confessions Sign'd by the Magistrats, and Transmitted to *Edinburgh*: As also My Lord Advocat, in his Letter to the Magistrats, says, *she freely own'd her Guilt before him*, and when afterwards she deny'd, says, *he was fully satisfied, she was perverted.* Now we desire to know what this Author can quarrel in the Magistrats or Minister's Conduct, in this Matter.

As to the Pamphleters Second and Third Observation, they have been fully Answered above. *As for what he adds about Ministers Refounding the Imprisoned Woman's Money seven fold.* We find the Author very charitable on other Mens Purses, but when the Magistrates and Minister, design'd to bestow their Charity, they will choose more observing Objects: And the Lords of Her Majesty's Privy Counsel understands themselves better, than to take their measures as to what is Just from the daring Prescriptions of this Author.

Our Authors 4*th* Observation is of a piece with the former, *Thomas Brown* was accused by the Lad, and Delated by three Confessing Witches, as being Accessor to the attempt on *M'gregour*, its false he was Starved, for his Daughter brought him his Dyet punctually. Our Authors Fears of moe Murders are altogether Groundless, as has been clear'd above, and we Appeal to all Men of Candor, whither this Authors Impudent and unjust Accusation against Magistrates and Minister of Murdering *Thomas Brown*, deserves not Severer Punishment than any thing he can charge them with.

The 5*th* Observation tells us, *The Baillies justified the Murder, by denying Christian Burial.* The Baillies gave no order thereabout, as for *Thomas Brown*, his own Son in Law, with some others Buried him: Our Author by his next may prove, that *Janet Corphet* a Woman that had so frequently, and so solemnly Confessed the Renounciation of her Baptism to the Devil, deserved Christian Burial.

Our Author in his last Observation tell us, *That the Minister all along Exercited more of the Civil Authority than any of the Baillies, which he pretends to clear by one instance*, which is this, *That the Magistrats, in the Acount of the Murder*

Murder they gave in to the Privy Council, told they had Impriſoned ſeverals of the Murderers, and that after they left the Town the Miniſter ſet them at Liberty. The matter of Fact is this in ſhort, Application being made to have the Perſons in Priſon for the Rable Bail'd, the Bailies forgetting to Conſult their Town Clerk the Night before they went off, came in the Morning to the Miniſter about five of the Clock, about other Affairs, and being loath to diſturb their Clerk ſo Early, he being Aged and Sickly, deſired the Miniſter to Conſult him thereanent; which he Refuſed to do: Whereupon they call'd the Town Officer, and ordered him to acquaint the Clerk, that if they could be bailed in Law, he ſhould do it, and the Officer was Ordered on this, to Liberat them; as alſo, they deſired the Miniſter to atteſt to the Clerk, that they had given this Order to their Officer, which accordingly he did, after the Officer ſpoke to the Clerk, and was no further concerned in the Matter. Now we challenge this Author to ſhew wherein the Miniſter ſtept beyond his Sphere, in all this? But if our Author miſs the Miniſter, he thinks he is ſure to hit the Bailies; and therefore adds, *That if the Bailies Ordered before they went off to Liberat the Priſoners, they were mightily in the wrong in giving an Account to the Privy Council, which they knew to be falſe*; We deſire to know where the falſhood of their Account Lyes, it was not falſe they had Impriſon'd them, it was not falſe that they left them in Priſon; Nor was it falſe they were ſtill Legally ſecure, being only Liberat on Bail; Beſides it's falſe, that the Bilies in the Information call'd them the Murderers of the Woman, they were only Delated by the Witneſſes, as being among the Rable. This Account we have given, we ſhall Juſtify by unexceptionable Witneſſes if he dare attack it; But to ſpeak a little Cloſſer with our Author about the Juſtice of this Obſervation: With what Conſcience durſt our Author accuſe the Miniſter *of exerciſing not only the Civil Authority, but more of it than any of the Bailies, and continuing to do ſo?* What a ſore-head muſt he have to offer this one Scandalous inſtance as a proof of ſo baſe a Calumny. The Miniſter poſitively deny's that in any one inſtance he invaded the Office of the Civil Magiſtrat; can this Author prove it.

Our Authors Concluſion is Remarkable; *My Lord this is not the Tenth part, of what may be ſaid on this Subject, I hope ſome other Perſon will be more particular:* We eaſily allow that if Men will aſſume a Liberty to Lye, to Slander, and Miſ-Repreſent, they may blot Paper and abuſe the World with Volumes: But if our Author had confin'd himſelf to Truth, inſtead of Abuſing the World with ten times as many Lyes, the moſt part of this Pemphlet had been ſpared.

It were tedious here to Relate at length the many Artifices uſed to ſmother this diſcovery of Witch-craft, Strange Methods have been try'd both at *Pittenweem* and *Edinburgh*, with the Witches, to make them Retract their Confeſſions. The Boy has been Repreſented as a Notable Impoſtrue, the Ma-

giſtrates

giſtrates and Miniſter have been traduced as Encouragers & ſupporters of the Cheat: Upon what views and Inducements no body knows, nor can the ſpreaders of theſe Reports condeſcend on any colourable Inducement. The perſons who ſeem'd any way convinced that there was Witchcraft in the caſe, not upon the triffling ground, ſome gave out they believed it, but from the joint Conſideration of the Witches Confeſſion, and the whole tract of the Boy's Trouble, as cloathed with all the particular Circumſtances, have been expoſed as Fooliſh and Credulous Men, who built their perſwaſion on ridiculous Grounds, whereon they never laid the leaſt ſtreſs.

After the Boy was recovered, and going Abroad again, a Picture was Clandeſtinely conveyed into his bed on the Lord's Day by Perſons, who, it ſeems, meant firſt to draw the Credulous vulgar into a conceit that this was the Picture, whereby the Boy was Tormented, that afterwards they might have a fair occaſion to expoſe them for their Credulity; and rivet the ſuſpicion of the Boys being a Cheat. When this took not, ſome gave it out, that the Miniſter had placed it there, which is a Story ſo Ridiculous that it cannot take with any perſon of Sobriety or Sence, and perhaps had he a great mind to it, he could find the Authors of this Sorry trick.

And of late again a certain perſon, who has done his utmoſt to ſtifle the whole Diſcovery of the Witchcraft did call out of Priſon, the abovementioned *M'greigour*, and threatned him with the ſevereſt Puniſhment, *If he did not deny his Accuſation of* Iſobel Adam, which we are able to prove by ſufficient Teſtimonies.

Further, We know who told a certain Gentleman in the Neighbourhood, then at *Edinburgh*, that if he would diſcourſe *Iſobel Adam* then liberat, ſhe would ſhow him what Rogues and Villains the Magiſtrats and Miniſter were, In practiſing on the Woman, and alluring her with promiſes, to accuſe many Honourable and Worthy Ladys, and that they named them expreſly to her, which the Gentleman conſented to hear, and accordingly ſhe was ſent to him, by this Peſons order, who, it ſeems, knew well where to find her, for his deſigns, when ſhe came, ſhe told her Story in ſuch ſort, that the Gentleman declared to the Miniſter, he ſaw evidently it was put in her Mouth; As for the matter of this Calumny, we think it not worth the while to refute it at large: When the Baillies and Miniſter Converſed with her, they were never alone, we dare appeal to the Author of the Pamphlet, whether it be Credible that they, who, he ſays, *had not the Courage to attack the conſiderable Mens Wives in the Town*, would take ſuch meaſures, to exaſperat Perſons of Quality, this is ſo far from being true, that the Miniſter did from the Pulpit diſcharge the People to ask the Women queſtions anent any: And if it were requiſite, the Miniſter could give his Oath, That he never heard any of theſe Worthy and

Honour-

Honourable Persons Names mention'd to the Woman, or the Lad, or ever directly or indirectly accused by them; but all these Stories were spread on design to inrage Gentlemen, and to stifle this Discovery. When our Author or his Friends are pleas'd to Publish his ten parts more, of which he boasts, we shall then deal a little more plainly.

But we forbear now any particular Account of these, and others of the same Alloy, because we love not to touch the Reputation of others unless we are driven to it in Self-Defence. But if necessity, which has extorted this Account, oblige us to be particular, we shall not spare to Narrate the Truth, and condescend without respect of Persons, on the Practices, Authors of them, Inducements, and the particular Circumstances, that are necessary to set them in a full Light. For all which we are able to give better Vouchers, than our Author's *Say's*.

And to conclude, whatever the Inconsiderate and Atheistical *Would-be-wits* of this Age may dream, Protestant Ministers of the Gospel, have no Temptation to be more easy than other Men in their belief, about particular stories of Witchcraft, or to obtrude them upon others, their Faith of the General Truth that there are Devils, and Witches, stands on no weaker Bottom, than the Faithful Word of GOD. Nor was it ever called in Question by any Persons that were found in the Christian Religion, and the Truth of God needs no lie to support it. And this Truth is Safe, whatever come of this or any other particular Instance, when any such occurences fall out in Ministers Congregations, it were more for there ease to suppress such Discoveries, by which they cannot propose so much as a shew of advantage to themselves, but on the contrar, such trouble, as might have, and has made them to be commiserat by generous Persons, that neither favour them nor their way; which the Minister of *Pittenweem* as he projected from the beginning, has found to his sad Experience.

It's like some may wonder, why a full and circumstantiat Account, of the Witches Confessions, and this Boy's Trouble, has not been offered to the Publick: But waving other reasons, not a few, of this Omission; it's thought that there is no great need of this. Many well attested Narratives of try'd Instances of this sort, have been published of old and late, which are sufficient, to satisfy Persons, Sober, Ingenious, and Judicious; and to render the Atheistical pretenders of this or former Ages, who from their unbelief of the general Truth, in reference to the Being of Devils, or Witches, call in question all particular instances, without making any difference, altogether without Excuse: And there is no great hope of convincing by such Accounts, however attested, such as believe not *Moses*, the Prophets, nor even the SON, by whom GOD hath spoken to us in these last Ages: We know that the latest and best Attested Narratives of this sort, have been boldly called in Question, by many little *pretenders to Reason* in privat Companies. But when they have assumed the courage publickly, and in Print to overthrow

throw the Evidence of the matters of Fact, or offered a rational Account of them upon other Principles, there will then and not till then, be need of adding new instances, and Vindicating the former. This hitherto they have not thought fit to do, tho' they have been challenged oftner than once. Nor dare they attempt it, while the Witnesses, and Publishers of these Accounts are alive to speak for themselves; And while this is not done, the idle Cheat wherewith these Quacks in Philosophy entertain themselves, and abuse the simple, behind the Curtain, deserve not the regard of any Person of Sobriety.

FINIS.